



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

SEP 24 1999 10:05 AM SEP 27 11:34

.The Honorable Mac Collins
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-1003

Dear Mr. Collins:

Thank you for your letter of July 6, 1999, on behalf of your constituent, Ms. Nancy Curran of Atlanta, Georgia, concerning actions by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA or the Agency) in regard to labeling of foods treated with ionizing radiation.

The 1997 FDA Modernization Act (PL 105-115) states that "[n]o provision . . . shall be construed to require on the label or labeling of a food a separate radiation disclosure statement that is more prominent than the declaration of ingredients" FDA published a final rule implementing this provision of the law in the Federal Register of August 17, 1998. A copy of this regulation, along with the pre-existing labeling requirements for food treated with ionizing radiation, Title 21 Code of Federal Regulations, § 179, is enclosed for your information.

In addition, the Statement of Managers accompanying the FDA Modernization Act directed FDA to publish for public comment further proposed changes to the Agency's current labeling regulations. The managers stated their intention that any required labeling be of a type and character such that it would not be perceived to be a warning or give rise to inappropriate consumer anxiety. On February 17, 1999, FDA published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) in the Federal Register soliciting public comment on whether additional revisions to the current irradiation labeling requirements are needed and, if so, what form such revisions might take. The deadline for comments in response to the ANPR was extended to July 19, 1999.

We have forwarded Ms. Curran's correspondence to the Docket for inclusion in the record. FDA's final approach to labeling

98N-1038

C4750/ANS

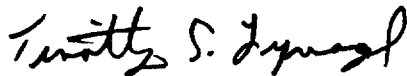
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of irradiated foods will take into account all of the data and information received.

Because your constituent may be concerned about irradiation labeling for meat and poultry, you may also wish to contact the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for information. (USDA has primary regulatory authority over meat and poultry products, including the labeling of such products.)

We have also enclosed some general background on the issue of irradiation. We trust this information responds to your concerns. If you have further questions about this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact us again.

Sincerely,


for Melinda K. Plaisier
Interim Associate Commissioner
for Legislation

Enclosures

cc: Dockets Management Branch
(98N-1038)

MAC COLLINS

3D DISTRICT, GEORGIA

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July 6, 1999

Ms. Diane E. Thompson
Associate Commissioner for Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Food and Drug Administration
Parklawn Building
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 15-55
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Ms. Thompson:

Enclosed is a correspondence from one of my constituents, Nancy Curran, expressing concern regarding the labeling of irradiated foods. I would appreciate your assistance in responding to this letter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mac Collins".

Mac Collins
Member of Congress

99-4596

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To: john.lewis@mail.house.gov, cymck@mail.house.gov, barr.ga@mail.house.gov,
From: "Nancy E. Curran" <necurran@mindspring.com>
Date: Wed, 02 Jun 1999 07:32:42 -0400
Subject: 1206 Ogilvie Drive NE Atlanta, GA 30324

I have sent the following message to the FDA. Please do everything you can to insist that irradiated food be easily identified by the average consumer so that the consumer can make informed decisions about what food products s/he wants to ingest.

I would appreciate hearing your position on this issue.

Thank you for your time.

>Date: Wed, 02 Jun 1999 07:26:47 -0400

>To: FDADockets@oc.fda.gov

>From: "Nancy E. Curran" <necurran@mindspring.com>

>Subject: Docket# 98N-1038-Irradiation in the Production, processing and handling of food.

>

>In reference to Docket# 98N-1038: I want the labeling of irradiated foods to be PROMINENTLY displayed. Irradiation can change the texture, taste, storage characteristics and nutrients of a food and therefore should be fully disclosed to the consumer so that s/he may make his/her own choice.

>

>The actual word IRRADIATED should be used, not some other euphemism so that consumers will be able to recognize foods that have undergone irradiation easily.

>

>

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Message Caption

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Staff

<input type="checkbox"/> Bray, Audrey	<input type="checkbox"/> Collins, Julie
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